

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Caprara et al. in view of Kinoshita. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Kinoshita, USP 6,535,537, has an effective date as a reference of September 15, 2000 (its U.S. filing date). The present application has claimed benefit of German patent application no. 100 26 734.3 filed May 30, 2000. This priority date precedes the effective date of Kinoshita.

In order to perfect the claim for priority benefit, enclosed herewith is a sworn English translation of the German priority application.

Since the present application is now entitled to benefit from the priority date of May 30, 2000, all subsequently dated prior art, including Kinoshita, cannot be applied against the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-25 over a combination of prior art which includes Kinoshita must be withdrawn.

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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